कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी. चिदम्बरम्): (क) और (ख) पंजाब सरकार से तथ्यों का पता लगाया जा रहा है।

Cases pending in Allahabad High Court

3629. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases pending in Allahabad High Court and since when; and

(b) what is the total number of vacant posts of Judges in the High Court and by when Government propose to fill them up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) As on 31-12-1988, 4,19,836 cases were pending in Allahabad High Court, out of which 2,20,979 cases were pending for more than 3 years, 1,33,492 for more than 5 years, 20423 for more than 10 years and 1976 for more than 15 years.

(b) 7 posts of permanant Judges and 5 posts of Additional Judges are vacant. It is not possible to indicate the time by which these posts would be filled up.

Export of iron ore

3630. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the countries with which negotiations are going on for export of iron ore from India and what is the progress of the talks held with them; and

(b) whether Soviet Union also propose to import iron ore from India and if so, what is the size of the order expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) While annual contracts have already been finalised by MMTC for 1989-90 with Japan, South Korea, GDR, China and Pakistan for export of Iron ore, sale contracts for 1989-90 with Bulgaria, Romania, Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea, Yugoslavia and the Middle East Countries are yet to be concluded by the MMTC.

(b) No, Sir.

Contracts with Sikh leaders

3631. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have established contacts with the two major milltant leaders who are presently in Jalandhar Jail to bring peace in Punjab;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have reviewed the law and order situation in Punjab after the release of Jodhpur detainees; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what further steps are proposed to bring normalcy in the state?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Facts are being ascertained from the Government of Punjab.

(c) and (d) The situation in Punjab is under constant review. The steps taken to curb terrorism and to restore peace in Punjab include erection of fence in the most vulnerable stretches of border, stregthening of security forces and supply of modern weapons and equipment to them to detect intruders|border crossers, strict checking of passengers at the border, creation of additional police districts, conducting of raids on the hide-outs of terrorists to arrest them and their harbourers and to flush out illicit arms and ammunition, setting up of village protection force pickets and involvement of ex-servicemen and villagers in Village Protection Groups.